

Minuteman

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WWII flyer pins on Distinguished Flying Cross

By Senior Airman David Atchison
Public Affairs

Skimming across the forest of eastern France below radar detection, 1st Lt. E. Eugene Williams and his Army aircrew approached the Rhine River loaded with gasoline and ammunition for U.S.



Soaring high, the C-47 was an essential part of transport during World War II.

Troops in Germany. As they crossed the river into Germany the terrain dropped, instantly leaving the crew exposed to German gunners who began firing on the C-47 aircraft. The gunners disabled the aircraft engines, starting a fire in the plane's fuselage.

With no power and at an altitude below the 400-ft. bailout window, Williams fought to control the plane and save his crew. With the help of a small patch of trees, he slid the aircraft to a stop in a rhubarb patch and quickly evacuated the aircraft. The crew dove into a ravine as the plane exploded. Williams and his crew didn't have much time to reflect on their escape, they were taken prisoners of war minutes later.

For his heroism, Williams was nominated for, but never received the Distinguished Flying Cross. Last month, during a pinning ceremony at Dobbins Air Reserve Base and in front of a standing-room only crowd of friends, family and flyers, Maj. Gen. James Bankers, 22nd Air Force Commander, presented Williams his Distinguished Flying Cross. The medal is awarded to members in the Armed Forces, who distinguish themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement during aerial flight in combat missions.

"Dr. Williams' service to his country and the sacrifices he made in the line of duty deserve our

appreciation and respect," commented Bankers. "His generation did a great service for our country and it was a real honor for me to present him the medal and share in this special moment with him and his family." Bankers also presented the Prisoner of War Medal to Williams.

Introducing Williams, Maj. Pat Blassie, 22nd Air Force executive officer, described the plight of Williams and his crew after the crash landing as "overwhelming." The crew was shot at before being captured and then faced a firing squad that was thwarted before their being marched 100 miles in four days. There was no food during the march and water only came from streams along the way. At night, they were placed in railroad cars so crowded they had to spend the night standing, and on several occasions were strafed by American planes.

Several prisoners died during the march to Stalag 6-G in the Ruhr Valley. At the end of his POW journey, Williams suffered from a variety of medical problems, several requiring years of treatment. The Army's Rainbow division liberated the prison camp at the end of the war.

Williams was allowed to keep his military-issued Bible while incarcerated and used it to instill hope in the

lives of his fellow inmates. After the war, he went on to become a minister, serving in a number of church and academic positions and today serves as a



The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to members of the Armed Forces, who distinguish themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement during aerial flight in combat missions.

church and institutional consultant, most recently serving as a professor of Communications at Taccoa Bible College in northern Ga. He holds a Ph.D. in Communication Arts and Sciences.

"Surviving the ordeal was a miracle," said Williams, who resides in Smyrna. "One never thinks their actions are great, we merely do what is required of us when the situation presents itself. I thank God for seeing me through the war and thank this great country for the freedoms we still have today. I really appreciate the effort everyone has put into this ceremony." While Williams expressed his gratitude for the medals and ceremony, it

was his son, Roger, who described the man who proved to be a hero in many different ways.

"My father seldom spoke of his experiences in World War II," said Roger Williams, who flew from California to be with his dad. "He had a deep respect for the events of those years and felt they should not be over glorified. But, my father taught me many things in life that I respect. He taught me to love God, to honor our country and respect our freedoms and I've always considered him a hero. Courage is an integral part of his frame, he measures life and success by those he has loved and I'm happy to call him 'father'."

Williams, born in Corning, N.Y., married the former Ruth Snyder of Altoona, Penn., more than 56 years ago. Along with Roger, they have a daughter, Virginia Payne, and four grandchildren.



Then and Now: Retired Lt. Eugene Williams as he was and as he is, a hero. (Left photo by Don Peek.

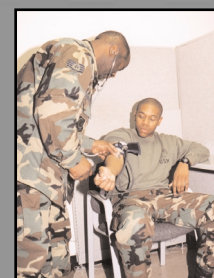
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Around the Wing



(Photo by Don Peek)

By Capt. Patrick Chastain
94th Services Squadron, Services officer

I will never forget as a young airman deploying for the first time to the field for an Operational Readiness Exercise. I was a firefighter in the 94th Civil Engineer Squadron and our unit was deploying to set up a bare-base operation. As is customary with these types of exercises, I arrived at zero dark thirty hours — way too early. After all of our gear was issued and loaded, we left the unit in a military convoy and traveled “all the way” across the base to the area that is now the base firing range. Upon our arrival we were “ambushed” and set about clearing the area of hostile forces — usually some security police who were always ready, willing and able to play the bad guys. After securing the area, we went to work making a base where there was only an open field.

Of course the weather was perfect for our operations. The highs were probably in the low 40s and there was a constant drizzle of rain that was occasionally interrupted by a torrential downpour, but like clockwork things were coming together as scheduled. Unfortunately, the schedule was a rather long one and work continued

well after the sun had long since set.

Then something happened that has stuck with me to this day and influenced my opinion of Air Force Services troops ever since. Chief Master Sgt. Dickey, from the Prime Ribs flight, which used to be a part of Civil Engineers and is now Services, declared that hot soup was available. “Now wait a minute,” I thought, “We are supposed to be eating MREs.” I wasn’t expecting hot food that night. For you younger troops, please note that MREs have not always come with a heater pack. Work was halted throughout the site as troops stumbled over each other to make sure they got a bowl of hot soup to eat with or in lieu of those MREs. I gave up that thought of toughening it out and fell in line to ensure I was not deprived of this culinary gold that had appeared out of nowhere. I still remember sitting around with the other troops, downing that soup and hearing the praise of the chief and his crew for going above and beyond. Soon work resumed, but with a renewed spirit even though it was late.

Since that time in the field I managed to earn my commission and have been privileged to become a Services officer. I am honored to work with individuals who understand that sometimes a simple thing like a bowl of soup can become the most important issue for troop morale when it is timely placed and unexpected. They often do it with very little attention or public knowledge of what they have had to endure to ensure that the job is done.

Since I have been in Services, I have seen my troops stay up all night after working a full day to pack flight meals for early morning flights during an exercise. Then after the flights were delayed, muster enough energy to stay awake, cook and prepare unscheduled breakfasts for several hundred. They volunteered before being officially called upon, to work evenings and nights on the base after Sept. 11 to provide food support for Security Forces. They worked through the holidays to ensure that other troops had their celebrations, while disregarding their own holiday parties. They worked during

winter weather, because they truly understand that there are always people to support, even when a base is closed. And the list of unselfish acts goes on and on.

When people ask me what I do in the military, I sum it up by saying, ‘I work with the people that ensure you have everything you need when you’re off duty.’

Occasionally, I receive complaints about what Service’s did or did not do. When dealing with those issues, I often wonder if we have become so good that we have spoiled ourselves. Regardless of complaints, I am proud to be a part of the Services team and this is my opportunity to thank and recognize Services for all they do and have done for me. I will always remember that simple bowl of soup and what a difference it made to the troops that night.

Before I close, there is some current information from Services that I want to bring to your attention. The Dining Hall is now open every day for evening and midnight meals. We are open for breakfast and lunch on the primary UTA. Due to the current situation, we have authorization for all officers, DoD civilians and Griffin Services employees to use the dining hall for these meals. There is a small surcharge for the meals. Additionally, we have converted one side of the Lakeside facility into a Recreation Center. “The Lake” has table tennis, a pool table, darts, scheduled movies on a large screen and other activities to help you relax during your off-duty hours.

Also, the Consolidated Club is having reservist appreciation nights every Saturday night of the UTA with food and fun. It is free to club members and only a small fee is charged for non-club members. The fitness center is offering free aerobics classes, so check with them for times and locations. Billeting could use your help by ensuring you check out of your rooms on time, especially during UTA weekends.

Support your 94th Services Squadron operations and activities. You really don’t realize how much they do for you until they are not there.

Top-Three Connection



(Photo by Don Peek)

By Master Sgt. George Bridges
94th Logistics Support Squadron,
NCOIC of Vehicle Maintenance

Prior to Sept. 11, many of us led our lives individually. We didn’t reflect on the common ground that made us all Americans.

Since the grievous events of that day, we have bonded. Each of us realized that we were threads that make up the fabric of America. We realized the importance of friends and family. We also honor the memory of the friends and family who were victims of the attacks last September. We’ve come to realize how fragile our lives can be.

As members of the military, we may be called upon to defend our nation at a moment’s notice to provide for the future of our children, family and friends. We cherish our relationships with families and friends and should hold on to the favorite memories of our lives.

Take more time to be with your family and other close relationships. Forgive petty arguments. Hug your kids. Volunteer to help in your community. Get

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Minuteman



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together with those you haven't seen in a long time. These experiences may not be available tomorrow. Everyone can make a difference to someone else's life.

The uniforms we wear as military members and the American flag symbolize freedom throughout the world. These symbols have not faltered since their existence. And they will not falter now.

As Americans we're not perfect and we've faced many obstacles. But as a free nation, we enjoy privileges some nations don't — such as freedom of speech, the right to bear arms and the freedom to wor-

ship as we please. We are the most diversified country in the world, and yet we set the standard for other nations. Military members who've been assigned around the world can attest to this.

I've been involved in a number of school, civil and community activities where a pledge or oath was required. But there is nothing greater and more rewarding than to pledge to protect your homeland from enemies, both "foreign and domestic." The last time I reenlisted, the Oath of Enlistment meant more. The words were clearer and made me more aware of my commitment. It is a privilege and honor to be an American.

Commentary: Dr. King s most famous speech - I have a dream

By Gen. Lester L. Lyles
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

I would never try to recollect the story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, or his accomplishments - most Americans are familiar with this already, or certainly had the opportunity to learn more about this great man from the many historical articles and TV specials presented during our national holiday honoring him.

Instead, I want to briefly reflect on Dr. King's most famous speech - "I have a dream" - which he gave nearly 40 years ago this year on August 28, 1963.

I was 17 years old on that hot, sultry day and about to enter college in my hometown of Washington D.C.

I can honestly say I was not a young man with a great social conscience at the time. Yes, I was obviously concerned about the plight of minorities, but I was not fully involved in the equality movement.

The march for equality in Washington D.C. that day was at first, nothing more than an exciting happening - lots of people; movie and TV stars; and political dignitaries.

I remember walking down the broad expanse of Constitution Avenue from the U.S. Capitol to the park grounds and reflecting pool by the Lincoln Memorial listening to people singing, "we shall overcome" - watching people marching arm-in-arm like old friends.

What initially stirred my emotions and started me thinking that this was not just a happening, but something truly significant, was when I noticed that this magnificent crowd of 300,000 did not contain just African-Americans - but people of all races and ages; people from all walks of life marching and singing for a cause. This was true integration and equality.

When Dr. King came to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, a hush slowly descended over the crowd and he began in his deep, melodious, rich tone. With the giant statue of Abraham Lincoln as a backdrop, it was almost as if the president who freed the slaves was pleased at what he was seeing and hearing; like a fatherly spirit proud of what his Emancipation Proclamation had set in motion some 100 years before.

We've come a long way as a society since that day in 1963, thanks to the unceasing contributions of heroes like Dr. King...some known and many more unknown. It is the countless unknown heroes we should strive to recognize and remember during Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

If you are inclined to doubt the success of these heroes, just ponder the current landscape in our nation's senior leadership...Secretary of State Colin Powell, National Security Adviser Condoleeza Rice, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Congressmen and women. The list of luminaries goes on across all walks of life -politics, religion and especially the military.

I hope the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day will not just be "a day of rest." It should be a day of action - that each of you will participate in projects that promote the ideals of the declaration of independence and the constitution. This national holiday will remind us that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy lives on. His dream has made a difference in our lives - both as a nation and personally.

You too can continue to make a positive difference for today and the future by just practicing the ideals of Dr. King.

Daniel Chappie James, Jr. 1920-1978

In 1975, General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. became the highest-ranking black officer in the Air Force when he was promoted to four-star grade. An articulate speaker who commanded great physical presence (he was six feet, four inches and weighed nearly 250 pounds), he was an effective spokesman for the Air Force.

Born in 1920, James was the youngest of 17 children. At 12, he worked at odd jobs to earn plane rides and flying lessons. He attended the Tuskegee Institute where he completed civilian pilot training in 1943 but did not see combat in World War II.

He was commissioned in July 1943. During the remainder of World War II, he trained pilots for the all-black 99th Pursuit Squadron (Tuskegee Airmen). He was subsequently stationed in Ohio and in the Philippines.

He earned a reputation as an outstanding fighter pilot in the Korean War. He flew more than 100 combat missions. James went to Ubon Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, in December 1966, as deputy commander for operations, 8th TFW, and in June 1967 was named wing vice commander. He flew 78 combat missions into North Vietnam, many in the Hanoi/Haiphong area, and led a flight into the Bolo Mig sweep in which seven Communist Mig 21s were destroyed, the highest total kill of any mission during the Vietnam War.

He was named vice commander of the 33d TFW at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., in December 1967. He was transferred to Wheelus Air Base in the Libyan Arab Republic in August 1969 as Commander of the 7272d Fighter Training Wing.

General James became deputy

assistant secretary of defense (public affairs) in March 1970 and was designated principal deputy assistant secretary of defense (public affairs) in April 1973. He assumed duty as vice commander of the

Military Airlift Command, with headquarters at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., Sept. 1, 1974.

James was promoted to four-star grade and assigned as commander in chief, NORAD/ADCOM,

Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Sept. 1, 1975. In these dual capacities, he had operational command of all United States and Canadian strategic aerospace

defense forces. His next assignment was special assistant to the chief of staff, U.S. Air Force, Dec. 6, 1977.

James was widely known for his speeches on Americanism and patriotism for which he has been editorialized in numerous national and international publications. Excerpts from some of the speeches have been documented into the congressional record. He received numerous military decorations and awards. His civilian awards include the George Washington Freedom Foundation Medal in 1967 and 1968 and the Arnold Air Society Eugene M. Zuckert Award in 1970 for outstanding contributions to Air Force professionalism. His

citation read "... fighter pilot with a magnificent record, public speaker, and eloquent spokesman for the American Dream we so rarely achieve." He suffered a heart attack in 1977. Thereafter he made the decision to retire. In February 1978, one month after retirement, he suffered a fatal heart attack. (Editor's note: Information was used from the Arlington National Cemetery Website & Army News Service's Remembering the Black Military Heritage/1985.)



A plaque commemorating the achievements of Gen. Daniel Chappie James Jr. was unveiled during a ceremony March 3, 2000 at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, where the street that passes in front of the headquarters of the Air National Guard s 149th Fighter Wing was renamed Chappie James Way. (Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Ripps)

Military, music and medical make up reservist's loves

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Stanley Coleman
Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Prather, 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical technician, is busy with three loves. For many of us with more than one love, they were all found at different times in life. Prather's romances with music, military, and family are no different. While a reservist, Prather is employed as a physical therapy technician and in his spare time produces a 30-minute gospel radio show for broadcast on the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service network.

His show, "Sacred Pages Radio," is self-produced on a volunteer basis for AFRTS. He also DJs some Sundays (as a fill-in) at WCOH, a local radio station in his hometown of Newnan, Ga. Prather grew up in Newnan with several of his family members as ministers.

"In addition to Sunday worship, there were always daily and weekly activities at the church," said Prather. "My appreciation for music started there." The appreciation for music strengthened into a love for gospel music. The experience of song grew into a love for helping and serving.

"Gospel music ministers to people," said Prather. "It has the right recipe to encourage anybody at anytime. While growing up I never thought of making it into a career. My present involvement with broadcasting came as an invitation to a broadcaster's meeting by a school friend while in college." That meeting began a 17-year relationship with broadcasting. But that was not the "end-all, be-all" of Prather's life experiences.

Prather initially attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga., for a bachelor of sci-

ence degree in Agricultural Science. After his introduction to broadcasting he transferred to West Georgia College in Carrollton, Ga., to pursue Mass Communications as a double major. After his sophomore year, Prather opted for an enlistment with the U.S. Army as a medical specialist.

"In addition to music, I had a deep interest in the medical profession," he said. "My seven years in the Army was accompanied by my still present interest in broadcasting and music." No matter where he was stationed, he found time to develop his skills with local radio stations. While in Germany, he disc jockeyed church events and parties with gospel music.

"While overseas, I noticed that gospel music (or music in general) was extremely far behind when it came to current releases. I made the commitment then to promote the gospel music ministry." Also, while in Germany, Prather developed an interest in physical therapy as a way to help and serve people. He achieved a variety of medical certifications in Germany.

"I knew there had to be something else that would help people — physical therapy was one of the answers," he said. Prather continued his career in the Army and worked in local radio markets wherever he was stationed. At the end of his seven-year, active-duty tour, he and his wife, Elaine, settled in Nashville, Tenn., where he became involved with the Nashville Gospel Television show as part of the technical staff. Afterward, he began working on a radio show for service members by contacting March Air Reserve Base in California for information on the requirements for producing a radio show. He followed up with demo recordings of his show for approval by the National Board of Religious Broadcasters in Washington D.C.

The show, "Sacred Pages Radio" was approved, but



Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Prather finds comfort in serving the public behind a microphone or in uniform. However he's very seldom behind a desk.

there was a four-year wait before it was broadcast. In the meantime, Prather relocated back home to Newnan where he produces and finances the show from a sound studio in his home. November 2001 marked the first anniversary of the "Sacred Pages Radio."

"There is not one style of gospel music or musicians featured on my show," said Prather. "I honor pioneer gospel artists on a segment of the show called 'Classic Corner.' I also blend a variety of musical moods in gospel music. My 9-year-old daughter, Aishah, even makes suggestions on the producing of the show."

What is Prather's formula for preparation of the show? Being joyful and keeping a clear mind, according to the staff sergeant. "I'm spontaneous when it comes to putting the show together." The show is recorded digitally on compact disc and is sent to March ARB, Calif., for broadcasting. Prather has been a member of the Dobbins family for a year now.

"I've always enjoyed the camaraderie of the military, and I enjoy giving the men and women of the military a touch of home through gospel music," he said. "I'm thankful for the freedom we have in this country and the opportunity to serve and protect it."

(Editor's note: Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Prather can be contacted at Sacred Pages Radio, P.O. Box 145, Newnan, Ga., 30264)



Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Prather performs a blood pressure reading on Marine Private 1st Class, Ricardo Lancaster, low altitude defense gunner with the 4th Low Altitude Assault Defense Battalion.

Kane, Dobbins honored by Cobb Chamber of Commerce

By Staff Sgt. Brannen Parrish
Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. William Kane, commander, 94th Airlift Wing was presented with the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce Freedom Award during the chamber's 60th

anniversary celebration on Jan. 12.

The Freedom Award, which was presented this year for the first time, honors the military men and women for their selfless devotion to service for their country.

According to Kane the award was not for him specifically, but for all the military men and women who serve here.

"It isn't my award. It is for the men and women of this base and Naval Air Station Atlanta. I'm just the recipient," he said. "But I'm extremely proud to receive the award for the men and women of this base."



(Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Stevenson)

Operations, Support Groups get new commanders

By Staff Sgt. Brannen Parrish
Public Affairs

Col. Jeffery Ippolito, commander, 94th Support Group and Col. James Stewart, commander, 94th Operations Group are bidding a fond farewell to Dobbins Air Reserve Base in preparation for their upcoming assignments.

Ippolito left the 94th Support Group in late January to become the 10th Air Force Support Division Chief in Fort Worth, Texas.

Prior to leaving, Ippolito said he would miss the base where he has served for the last five years.

"It's actually the toughest move I've ever made in my Air Force career. I've made more friends in the almost six years I've been here than anywhere else," he said. "I think a lot about the great team here at Dobbins and how Brig. Gen. Kane, Col. Stewart and Col. Alley have been so easy to work with. Someone on the wing

staff told me a few weeks ago they'd never been at a base where the group commanders get along so well. I haven't either."

Ippolito, who came to the 94th Airlift Wing, from the 22d Air Force said he would miss his friends at both organi-



Col. Jeffery Ippolito



Lt. Col. Curtis Williams



Col. James Stewart



Lt. Col. Heath Nuckolls

and Maj. Mike McCully we were able to acquire this piece of equipment that we really needed," Stewart said.

Additionally, Stewart oversaw the transition of the 94th Operations Group from an operational unit to a training unit and the schoolhouse get certification by the Community College of the Air Force.

"None of these things are entirely my accomplishments," Stewart said. "You don't do any of those things without the support of the folks in the trenches who are actually doing the work for you."

Lt. Col. Heath Nuckolls, who serves as an Air Reserve

Technician from 1992 to 1993.

Stewart will leave Dobbins to become the commander of the 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. During his tenure as the 94th Operations Group commander, he oversaw the acquisition of an Instrument Landing System that allows pilots to land in bad weather.

"For many years we didn't have an ILS and with the help of Brig. Gen. Kane

Technician with the 22d Air Force will replace Stewart as the commander of the 94th Operations Group.

The change of command ceremony for the 94th Operations Group will take place during the Operations Group Commander's Call on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 8 a.m. in Bay 2 of Building 838. The Assumption of Command ceremony for Williams will take place when he arrives in May.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

AN OPEN LETTER

TO: CIVILIAN EMPLOYERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF AIR FORCE RESERVISTS

As our nation recovers from the horrendous events of September 11th, thousands of citizen-airmen of Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) are being called to duty. To succeed in our mission, our mobilized reservists need the support of their fellow reservists, families and employers.

In the partial mobilization of our reserve forces, I'd like to recognize the unselfish patriotic support of our civilian employers and family members. Our country thanks you for the strains you endure, not only during a crisis such as we now face, but throughout the year, as your citizen-airmen train and participate in exercises and worldwide contingencies.

We cannot maintain our military commitments around the world without the skills and expertise that reside in the Reserve components. These Reserve forces number half of our nation's total military might.

Without your continued support, understanding and obvious love of country, it would be impossible to maintain this level of Reserve readiness, as members of Reserve components would have to choose between duty and employment. You are indeed a critical element of this nation's "Total Force".

As our country takes measures necessary to eliminate terrorism, I proudly salute every employer and family member of AFRC personnel. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Blessings to each of you, and God bless America!

Sincerely

JAMES E. SHERRARD III, Lt Gen, USAF
Commander

Government okays keeping frequent flyer miles

By Senior Airman Micky Cordiviola
Public Affairs

Earning frequent flyer miles just became a little easier. On Dec. 28, President Bush signed into law S. 1438, National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2002. Section 1116 of this law authorizes federal employees to retain promotional items including frequent flyer miles.

DoD employees and military members may receive frequent flyer miles for government paid trips including those miles earned prior to, on, or after the effective date of the rule change Dec. 31.

This benefit also includes members and employees who may have retired or separated from government service prior to the date of the rule change, but continue to maintain frequent flyer miles earned through government-funded travel.

According to the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) website, "It is the policy of the government that employees generally must travel by coach-class accommodations. However, you may upgrade your transportation class of service at your own expense. Therefore, as frequent traveler benefits may now be retained for your personal use, you may use any frequent traveler benefits you have earned to upgrade your transportation class to premium service."

To use this benefit employees and members must communicate directly with a service provider to establish a frequent travel promotional benefits account. Any associated costs are to be paid by the traveler, and are not a reimbursable expense. The Internal Revenue Service has indicated to the GSA that this benefit may be taxable.

Items must be obtained under the same conditions as those offered to the general public at no additional cost to the government. For more information, contact the travel office or Jim Harte, GSAs travel policy team leader, at (202) 501-0483 or e-mail him at Jim_Harte@gsa.gov.

DOBBINS, LOCAL COMMUNITIES JOINT FIREFIGHTING FACILITY

By Staff Sgt. Brannen Parrish
Public Affairs

Ask any firefighter how looks can be deceiving and stories will abound about innocent cinders that hide roaring infernos. The Joint Training Facility at Dobbins Air Reserve Base has a humble appearance, but what looks like a couple of railroad cars stacked on an old runway is actually a technological marvel and a state-of-the-art firefighting simulator.

The JTF, which officially opened for

business Jan. 15, allows firefighters to gain realistic training in a safe, environmentally friendly setting. Designed and manufactured by Fire Training Systems Ltd., of Ontario, the \$265,000 facility is divided into indoor and outdoor sections to allow firefighters to battle a variety of conflagrations.

The indoor facility can realistically reproduce the effects of a burning bed or a wayward stovetop blaze. As firefighters try various types of spray, an experienced trainer with a remote control decides whether they are using proper technique

and spray combinations and then alters the fire accordingly. Use the right technique and the fire goes away, use the wrong technique and the firefighter could experience a rollover — an event that occurs when fire plumes separate from the main source and create a flame that travels over the firefighters at ceiling level. Rollovers often signal that a room is approaching flashover. When a flashover occurs an orange inferno surrounds the firefighter and increases the probability of casualties.

Because the JTF is fueled by propane gas, extinguishing blazes within the facility with water is futile. Firefighters must use tactical firefighting skills to accomplish their control of the blaze.

“It’s extremely beneficial because if the firefighters aren’t applying the right technique, you can elevate the flames,” said Chief Bill Wilson, training chief at Dobbins Air Reserve Base Fire Department. “If they use the right techniques, you can extinguish the flame.”

Reinforced, insulated steel, allows the outside of facility to remain cool to the touch while the inside is hot enough to bake a Thanksgiving turkey. The firefighters can practice search and rescue missions in black smoke.

“The smoke doesn’t contain carbon monoxide and other dangerous gases and chemicals you might find in a house fire, so it’s 100 percent safe,” said Chief John Hicks, fire chief, Dobbins Air Reserve Base Fire Department.

The facility will have a far-reaching effect on the firefighting community in the Atlanta metro area because it was purchased in partnership with the fire departments from Cobb and Paulding Counties, as well as the city fire departments of Marietta, Smyrna and Austell.

“What is amazing is the way everything came together at the city, county and



The Joint Training Facility combines state-of-the-art technology with temperatures as high as 700 degrees. (Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Stevenson)



Two Dobbins firefighters battle a blaze in the Joint Training Facility at Dobbins Air Reserve Base. The indoor facility can simulate various types of conditions firefighters might encounter including flashovers. (Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Stevenson)

federal level to make this facility a possibility,” said Wilson.

Dobbins Air Reserve Base provided the real estate and the firefighters from the base fire department added approximately \$18,000 in self-help work.

“Our guys went in on their off days and laid the foundation and prepared the area,” said Hicks. “They really put a lot of effort into making this thing possible. They made it come together.”

According to Brig. Gen. William Kane, commander, 94th Airlift Wing, the JTF benefits the local community and the base by improving the training firefighters receive. The facility improves the training, which in turn increases the safety of the residents in the local communities, Kane noted during the opening ceremony. “I don’t think anyone can argue with that.”

COMMUNITY MAKE FACILITY A REALITY



with tough craftsmanship. Temperatures in the building can reach
(son)



The outside portion of the facility allows firefighters to battle car fires. The vehicle can be ignited from the hood, the trunk or from within the vehicle. (Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Stevenson)



Through a window on the upper level of the JTF the fire from a burning bed can be seen. (Photo by Don Peek)



Officials from Dobbins, Smyrna, Marietta, Cobb County and Paulding County officially open the Joint Training Facility at Dobbins. (Photo by Don Peek)

Defense bill appropriates \$3.1 billion for Air Force Reserve

The fiscal year 2002 Department of Defense Appropriations Act increases Air Force Reserve Command's annual operating budget and provides funds for more personnel.

President George W. Bush signed the act Jan. 10 granting AFRC an annual budget total of \$3.065 billion, a \$235 million increase compared to FY 2001. This year's spending bill allocates \$317 billion to the Department of Defense.

Funding for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2002, permits a Selected Reserve end strength of 74,700, a full-time Active Guard and Reserve cadre of 1,437 members and a full-time air reserve technician force of 9,818. Compared to last year, this boosts the end strength by 342, AGRs by 101 and ARTs by 33.

Under the reserve personnel appropriation, AFRC gets \$1.061 billion to cover pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, travel and other related expenses. This year's RPA funds an average pay hike of 6.9 percent for military personnel. Last year's budget called for \$971 million for

the Reserve. In signing the legislation into law during a Pentagon ceremony, the president said the act demonstrates the bipartisan support the military has.

"We can never pay our men and women in uniform on a scale that matches their sacrifices," Bush said. "But this bill reflects our respect for your selfless service."

"We owe you decent pay and a decent quality of life," he told the audience. "We owe you the best leadership and training. We owe you the best equipment and weaponry. We owe our service men and women our best because we owe you our freedom."

In Air Force Reserve Command, another \$2.005 billion goes to operation and maintenance funding to train, organize and administer the command. O&M funds pay for flying hours, depot maintenance, repair of facilities and equipment, travel and transportation, civilian pay, recruiting, communication, as well as procurement of services, supplies and equipment. Last year the command got an O&M budget of \$1.86 billion.

Congress adjusted funding recommended in the President's Budget proposal for FY 2002. After making funding realignment offsets, Congress added \$6 million to the RPA account for school and special training. In O&M funding, it trimmed \$5 million from travel and subtracted \$6 million for unjustified program growth and \$14 million for business process reforms, but added \$1 million for C-17 site surveys.

This year under Guard and Reserve Equipment, Air Force Reserve Command also gets \$76.3 million - \$5 million for miscellaneous equipment and \$71.3 million for C-130J aircraft. The Reserve received \$4.9 million for miscellaneous equipment in 2001.

In addition to these programs included in the FY 2002 Department of Defense Appropriation Act, Congress previously provided \$74.9 million to the Reserve for military construction projects in the FY 2002 Military Construction Appropriations Act, which was signed into law Nov. 5. (AFRC News Service)

2002 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

		Years of Service														
		Under 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26
Pay Grade	O-7 <u>2</u>	795.52	849.56	849.56	855.76	887.72	912.04	940.16	968.24	996.36	1084.68	1159.32	1159.32	1159.32	1159.32	1165.16
	O-6 <u>2</u>	589.60	647.72	690.24	690.24	692.88	722.52	726.48	726.48	750.48	840.76	883.60	926.44	950.80	975.48	1023.36
	O-5 <u>2</u>	471.60	553.68	592.04	599.24	623.08	623.08	641.80	676.44	721.80	767.44	789.20	810.64	835.04	835.04	835.04
	O-4 <u>2</u>	403.16	490.92	523.68	531.00	561.40	586.12	626.16	657.36	679.00	700.76	708.08	708.08	708.08	708.08	708.08
	O-3 <u>2</u>	372.88	422.72	456.24	493.16	516.76	542.68	564.32	592.16	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60	606.60
	O-2 <u>2</u>	322.16	366.92	422.60	436.84	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88	445.88
	O-1 <u>2</u>	279.68	291.08	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80	351.80
	O-3E <u>2,3</u>				493.16	516.76	542.68	564.32	592.16	615.60	629.00	647.36	647.36	647.36	647.36	647.36
	O-2E <u>2,3</u>				436.84	445.88	460.04	484.00	502.52	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32	516.32
	O-1E <u>2,3</u>				351.80	375.76	389.64	403.80	417.76	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84	436.84
	E-9 <u>1</u>							456.52	466.84	479.92	495.28	510.72	525.88	546.44	566.84	595.60
	E-8 <u>1</u>						381.08	392.08	402.36	414.68	428.04	441.96	456.04	476.40	496.64	525.04
	E-7 <u>1</u>	264.92	289.20	300.20	311.00	322.32	341.72	352.68	363.52	374.40	385.68	396.68	407.64	426.72	439.04	470.24
	E-6 <u>1</u>	226.80	249.44	260.48	271.16	282.32	300.60	311.64	322.32	333.24	341.08	347.04	347.04	347.04	347.04	347.04
	E-5 <u>1</u>	208.20	222.04	232.76	243.80	255.04	270.68	281.36	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44	292.44
	E-4 <u>1</u>	192.48	202.36	213.28	224.04	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64	233.64
	E-3 <u>1</u>	173.80	184.72	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80	195.80
	E-2 <u>1</u>	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24
	E-1>4 <u>1</u>	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40	147.40
	E-1<4 <u>1</u>	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36	136.36

New pay chart effective Jan. 1. Normally, reservists receive credit for four drill pay periods during one weekend unit training assembly.

- Notes: See following explanations for the underlined numbers located to the right of the various pay grade designations in column one.
1. While serving as JCS/Vice JCS, CNO, CMC, Army/Air Force CS, basic pay is \$13,598.10 (see note 2).
 2. Basic pay for an O-7 to O-10 is limited by Level III of the Executive Schedule, which is \$11,516.70. Basic pay for O-6 and below is limited by Level V of the Executive Schedule, which is \$10,133.40.
 3. Applicable to O-1 to O-3 with at least 4 years and 1 day of active duty as a warrant officer and/or enlisted member.

February UTA Schedule

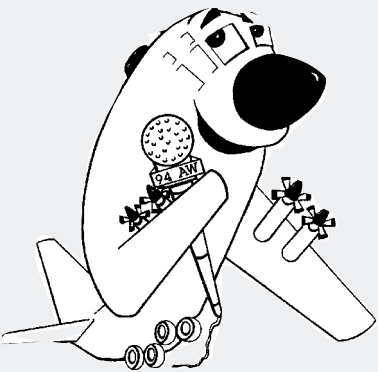
(A FLT) Saturday, February 2, (B FLT) Saturday, February 9

TIME	FLT	ACTIVITY (OPR)	LOCATION
0700-0830	A&B	OPEN RANKS/SIGN IN (CC)	UNIT ASGND
0730-0800	A	WING ELEMENT STAFF MTG	BLDG 838/RM 1202
0730-0900	A	NEWCOMERS INTRO	BLDG 838/WCR
0730	A&B	PHYSICAL EXAMS (AIRCREW)	NAVY CLINIC
0800	A	M16A2 RIFLE TNG (SFS)	CATM RANGE
0800	A	WING CMDRS CALL (OPS GP & WING STAFF)	BLDG 838/BAY 2
0800-1100	A&B	IMMUNIZATIONS	NAVY CLINIC
0800	A&B	PHYSICAL EXAMS (NON-AIRCREW)	NAVY CLINIC
0830	A	OUTPROCESSING APVD REASGNMTS/RETIREMENTS/SEPARATIONS)	BLDG 838/RM 2406
0900	A	WING CMDRS CALL (LG GP)	BLDG 838/BAY 2
0900	A	C.A.I.B. MTG (CV)	BLDG 838/WCR
0900	B	WING CMDRS CALL (ALL ALTERNATE UTA PERSONNEL)	BLDG 838/BAY 2
0900-1500	A	NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION	BLDG 838/RM 1202
0900-1100	A&B	NBCWD (REFRESHER TNG)(CEX)	BLDG 838/RM 1322
0930	A	TDY OUTPROCESSING 30+DAYS & ALL FORMAL SCHOOL TOURS (BRING ORDERS)	BLDG 838/RM 2406
1000	A	WING CMDRS CALL (SPT GP & ASTS)	TBD
1000-1100	A	QTRLY PCIII WORKERS GP (MAR/JUN/SEP/DEC)	BLDG 827/RM 208B
1030	A	RETIREMENT BRIEFING	BLDG 838/RM 2406
1100-1200	A	FIRST SERGEANTS GP MTG	BLDG 827/94MXS
1230-1500	B	MASK FIT (80APS)	
1300	A&B	OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICALS	NAVY CLINIC
1300-1500	A&B	CDC EXAMS	BLDG 838/RM 2304
1300-1500	A	NBCWD (REFRESHER TNG)(CEX)	BLDG 838/RM 1322
1500-1600	A	DEPLOYMENT MGRS MTG(XP)	BLDG 838/WCR
1600	A	RETREAT (CC) UNIT: 700AS	BLDG 922/FRONT

(A FLT) Sunday, February 3, (B FLT) Sunday, February 10

TIME	FLT	ACTIVITY (OPR)	LOCATION
0645-0730	A&B	OPEN RANKS/SIGN IN (CC)	UNIT ASGND
0730	A	M9 PISTOL TNG (SFS)	CATM RANGE
0800-0900	A	DOBBINS TOP 3 MTG	FINCH BLDG/GAANG
0830	A&B	OUTPROCESSING APVD REASGNMTS/RETIREMENTS/SEPARATIONS)	BLDG 922/RM 205
0830-1100	A	MASK FIT (APS/AES/ASTS)	BLDG 838/RM 1322
0900-1000	A&B	YELLOW FEVER SHOTS	NAVY CLINIC
0900-1000		CHIEFS GROUP MTG (PA)	BLDG 838/RM 1202
0900-1200	A&B	CDC EXAMS	BLDG 838/RM 2304
0930	A&B	TDY OUTPROCESSING 30+DAYS & ALL FORMAL SCHOOL TOURS (BRING ORDERS)	BLDG 922/RM 205
1000	A	IG COMPLAINTS	BLDG 838/RM 2105
1000-1030		ENL ADVISOR COUNCIL MTG (SEA)	BLDG 838/WCR
1000-1100	A	30-DAY RECORD REVIEW	BLDG 838/RM 1202
1030	A&B	RETIREMENT BRIEFING	BLDG 922/RM 205
1130	A	CMDR'S WORKING LUNCH	COM (MARIETTA RM)
1230-1500	A	MASK FIT (APS/AES/ASTS)	BLDG 838/RM 1322
1000-1100	A	30-DAY RECORD REVIEW	BLDG 838/RM 1202
1130	A	CMDR'S WORKING LUNCH	COM (MARIETTA RM)
1300-1400	A	FLYING SAFETY	BLDG 727/700 AS
1300-1500	A&B	MMUNIZATIONS	NAVY CLINIC
1300-1530	A	MILITARY EO	BLDG 838/RM 1202
1315-1400	A	QTRLY SUPERVISOR SAFETY TNG (MAR/JUN/SEP/DEC)	BLDG 744/ 2ND FL TNG RM
1500-1600	A	QTRLY NEWCMRS MTG (94AW/CC) (JAN/APR/JUL/OCT)	CONSOL OPEN MESS

Herk Wonders



“Why do you think it’s important to recognize military members’ sacrifice?”

“By showing our appreciation for the sacrifices others have made on our behalf we ‘pep’ them up.”

Master Sgt. Cynthia Block,
22nd Air Force, Command
Section NCOIC

“Because a lot of people don’t get recognized for the things they do.”

Tech. Sgt. Bill Hutchinson
700th Airlift Squadron, loadmas-
ter

“Most honorees are humble people; if we didn’t honor and recognize them no one would know of their achievements.”

Master Sgt. Michael Hensley, 22nd Air Force,
Education and Training NCOIC

“It’s because of the military members’ sacrifices that the world is a predominately democratic place. Their sacrifices have truly changed the world.”

Chief Master Sgt. Jimmy McKenna, 22nd Air Force, Life
Support superintendent

“We honor military members because it raises morale and patriotism. It also makes people feel appreciated to be given a tangible token of gratitude.”

Tech. Sgt. Barry Reed, 94th
Aeromedical Staging Squadron,
medical technician

Want to see the UTA schedule sooner? The most current issue of the *Minuteman* is always available online one week prior to the UTA. Access --
http://www.afrc.af.mil/22AF/94aw/pa_minuteman.asp

Dobbins Top Three meeting

The Dobbins Top Three Association will hold its next quarterly meeting at 8 a.m. on Feb. 3 at the Georgia National Guard Headquarters auditorium in the Finch Building.

Leadership development

The Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership Development Program is here to help NCOs improve their leadership skills and gain tools that will assist in handling current AFRC issues. The NCOLDP is a 10-day course, which explores college-level academic and leadership instruction and the application of those concepts to current Air Force issues. While the program targets staff sergeants and technical sergeants, senior airmen and master sergeants looking for an effective leadership course have attended the program.

The next opportunity to attend this 10-day program at Dobbins will be March 11 - 22. In order to attend this session, a request signed by individual's commander must be submitted to the base training manager, Tech. Sgt. Angie Cooper. The deadline for submitting an application for the March class is close of business Saturday of the February UTA. The class will also be held June 3 - 14. Call (770) 919-5043 for more information.

Free aerobics

The Dobbins ARB fitness program is now offering free aerobics Tuesdays-

Thursdays at the Lakeside Facility, Building 537. Class schedules are 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Contact Fred Engel at (770) 919-4870 for more information.

Laundry facility

Come to the new laundry facility at the Rental Center, Building 558, and wash your clothes for only \$1 per wash and \$1 per dry. Laundry detergent and fabric softener are available for purchase. Operating hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Contact Fred Engel at (770) 919-4870 for more information.

On the run eating

The Verhulst Hall Dining facility introduces the "Meals To Go Window." During UTA lunches, call the menu line at (770) 919-3872 to find out what is on the lunch menu and then fax your order to (770) 919-3430. Be sure to include your name and unit. If you do not have access to a fax machine, you can also place orders at the window. Each individual must be present to sign for his or her meal. Multiple orders for pick up by a single person cannot be handled through the window. The window is located at the rear of the dining facility, across from the billeting office.

Evening dining

The Consolidated Club is now open for evening dining on Friday nights. The club will have a different menu each

Friday, featuring a seafood buffet on Feb. 1, an Italian buffet on Feb. 8, a cajun buffet on Feb. 15, and a Mexican buffet on Feb. 22. Dinner will be served from 6 - 10 p.m. with dancing to follow. Reservations are not necessary, but are recommended. To make your reservation, call (770) 919-4594. Look for more menus in future Minuteman shorts.

Reservist appreciation night

Reservists can join the fun at the Dobbins Consolidated Club on Feb. 2 with great food, Karaoke and prizes. This event, scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. is free to Consolidated Club members and only costs guests and non-members \$5.

A dinner for lovers

The Consolidated Club is hosting a Valentine's Day dinner on Feb. 14 at 6 p.m. The meal includes Chateau Briand for two, special side dishes, wine, dessert, and romantic dinner music. All the fun for only \$49.95 per member couple and \$55.95 per non-member couple. For reservations, contact the Consolidated Club at (770) 919-4594.

Membership night

Make arrangements to be at the Consolidated Club on Feb. 23, when members can enjoy a complimentary meal between 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. One guest enjoys the same meal for only \$5. The club will have games, prizes and entertainment for its members. Attendance is limited to the

member plus one guest. Membership night is an adult event and limited to individuals 18 or older. Attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Morale calls

Dobbins has a new automated system to assist DoD military personnel when TDY to contact local families without the assistance of the base operator. Called the "Morale Minder," the system is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. All calls are limited by DoD directives to 15 minutes.

Use the following information during your TDY to access local numbers (area codes 770, 678 and 404 only). There is no automated system, nor approval for long-distance calls. All government communications are subject to monitoring. Instructions for using Morale Minder:

- * Morale Minder can only be accessed from DSN, by dialing 625-1110.

- * After dialing DSN 625-1110, enter the Dobbins menu.

- * Press (1) to place an off-base official or morale call. This gives you instructions on how to place a call.

- * Press (1) again. This gives you the time limit of the call.

- * Press (1) again. This gives you access for dialing your number.

When placing a call, you can only dial a 10-digit number (example: 770-919-5714) or whatever local area code you need. For toll-free numbers, you still dial 10-digits (example: 800-555-1212).

If you have any questions, call Otis Sampson at (770) 919-5714.



An unusual sight for more than two weeks the Dobbins flightline was empty. While 24-hour-a-day runway repairs were underway, all aircraft from Dobbins relocated and performed flight operations out of other bases around the country. The 94th Airlift Wing moved its C-130s to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and shared resources with the 908th Airlift Wing. (Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Stevenson)



Tony Watzke (left), simulator operations manager, and Lt. Col. Rich Stout (right), simulator operations officer, present Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Higgins, 910th AW, Youngstown-Warren Air Reserve Station, Ohio, with a certificate of training for flight engineer initial training and flight engineer mission training courses. Higgins is the first student to arrive and attend both courses. (Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Stevenson)

Newly Assigned

Lt. Col. Ronald Watts
Maj. Bonnie P. Gary
Maj. Paul R. Pinkstaff
Capt. Donald L. Rose
Capt. Nancy L. Ross
Tech. Sgt. Camille Davidson
Tech. Sgt. James Knowles
Staff Sgt. Phillip Marchwinski
Staff Sgt. Phillip L. Thomas
Staff Sgt. Ronda Worth
Staff Sgt. Thomas Vidamour
Senior Airman Christopher Collier

Senior Airman Shaquan S. Ensley
Senior Airman Loranda V. Givens
Senior Airman Rufus Jones, Jr.
Senior Airman Harris M. Marshall
Senior Airman Ronardo Reeves
Senior Airman Christopher A. Veilleux
Senior Airman Arrik V. Williams
Airman 1st Class David T. Carter
Airman 1st Class Rose M. Eskridge
Airman 1st Class Ashad D. Russell
Airman 1st Class Darius M. Sampson
Airman Marcella M. Paul

Promotions

To Senior Master Sgt.
Harold K. Conatser

To Master Sgt.
Jerry W. McCary
Patrick S. Sheirling

To Tech. Sgt.
Douglas A. Clark
Sandra Gonzalez
Rex C. Griffith, Jr.
Eddie J. Maultsby

To Staff Sgt.
Cynthia M. Owens
Justin E. Wilson

To Senior Airman
Adrian K. Lewis
Betty J. Taylor
Quinzavious D. Trice
Jarvin T. Wright

To Airman 1st Class
Termaine R. Fluellen
James T. Newton

SILENT PRIDE OF A CEREMONIAL GUARDSMAN

It is early morning, I have awakened to a new day, a fresh challenge of my professional techniques. I dress myself in a Uniform of pride and honor that will turn the heads of everyone I meet.

As I look in the mirror a face of stone stares back, but with a heart of gold, for I know by the end of the day I will have earned the respect of another family of both young and old.

It is time to report to the location of my training and begin preparations for rendering honors with pride. To be proficient on folding and presenting, it's almost time for my short ride.

I have arrived now to the final resting place of another soldier, an individual I never knew by sight, but I know in my heart. Its time now, I must start.

My head is held high, my steps soft with a steady click of my taps. Knowing many people are watching with the silence of their breaths and trembling hands on their laps.

All ears are on the heart grabbing sound of Taps and the sad eyes of goodbye are all on me. I must be crisp! For my sharp, tailored Uniform of Blue with Silver lining is what they see.

The moment has arrived, I am standing tall before the next of kin. With my chest full of air, my heart beating steadily, my eyes holding back a torrent of tears, I am ready to begin.

Within the soft touch of my frosted, white gloves I hold an American Soldier's final revered cloth of honor and dignity to present to these loved ones.

I hold forward, to the family, the greatest military honor of my heart and the representation of thanks from this grateful Nation.

As our hands clasp and hold this American symbol of freedom I feel the warmth of thanks in joining their heart with their loved one's heart

And with this feeling of honor in my heart, being one of Westover's Elite Honor Guard, I am honored to be a part.

TSGT JOHN A. MASAITIS, SR.
CEREMONIAL GUARDSMAN

John A. Masaitis



Col. William Watkins assumes command of the 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron during ceremonies held at Dobbins ARB in January. Brig. Gen. William P. Kane, 94th Airlift Wing Commander passes the unit colors to Watkins while Master Sgt. Dexter King looks on. (Photo by Don Peek)



Volunteers from the Transportation Proficiency Center filled Christmas gift bags with toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, combs, and socks and presented them to veterans during their quarterly visit to the Veterans hospital. TPC and other auxiliary organizations visit the hospital on special occasions to deliver needed comfort items, messages of love and to just spend time with the veterans, listening to their personal war stories. TPC is planning another visit to the VA hospital for Valentines Day. If you would like to participate or make a donation please contact Tech. Sgt Royce Draughn at (770) 919-3209. (Photo by Don Peek)

Come rain or shine, two friends keep their eye on the skies

By Master Sgt. Stanley Coleman
Public Affairs

Jean Graham's ties to the Air Force have always been through the weather forecaster career field. Assigned to Dobbins ARB for more than 10 years as a civilian contractor, her soft-spoken, alto voice commands the attention of pilots, visiting high-school students, and anyone who has a need to know regarding the weather.

Master Sgt. Lisa Mozer is a forecaster assigned as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee. With more than 20 years as a reservist, she is also certified by the Air Force Weather Agency and works as a broadcast meteorologist with the Weather Channel, in Atlanta. She's presently assigned to Warner Robins AFB, Ga., and Barksdale AFB, La.

With similar and yet diverse experiences, Mozer and Graham's five-year friendship began as a training arrangement with Mozer's move to Atlanta and desire to remain an IMA.

"I moved to Atlanta in 1996 after being recruited by the Weather Channel from a TV station in South Bend, Ind.," said Mozer. "I was a member of the active Reserve and had previously attained a bachelor of art degree in Communications. I was assigned to a National Guard unit at Andrews AFB in Washington D.C. I met Jean during my search for a new reserve assignment in the Atlanta area. The commander at Dobbins and the commander of my unit agreed to allow me to train at the weather office here. Jean became my trainer."

Graham, a native of Queens, N.Y., began her weather career with the Air Weather Service in 1983. Within 12 years she reached the rank of technical sergeant and had worked two overseas and five air-base assignments as well as attending to her family duties as mother and wife.

"I was assigned to personnel when I first enlisted," said Graham. There was an overage and I was placed into the Air Weather Service (renamed the Air Force Weather Agency). I found weather fascinating and fun. It was amazing to me how a radar beam could hit a cloud and bounce back to the radar station."

Mozer, a native of Charlotte, N.C., shares the same enthusiasm. While broadcasting was her first love, she discovered that meteorology is something that everyone needs. As an outdoor person, she found weather fascinating. Mozer began her military career as a Marine in the administrative career field in 1981. She served in the Marine Corps Reserve for 12 years. While she pursued a degree and became a certified meteorologist, she raised two sons Don, 25, and Garnell, 24.

"On the air, Lisa is very professional," said Graham. "You can tell she knows what she's talking about by the terminology she uses and her presentation." At the Weather Channel, Mozer begins her work shift by collecting information before she goes on the air. She also gathers data from various weather sources and checks the news for the latest events, and weather hotspots around the country. After her initial briefing, her presentation begins at the top of the hour. She broadcasts an overview of the weather across the nation and pinpoints severe weather conditions.



Lisa Mozer, meteorologist with the Weather Channel, and Jean Graham, Dobbins ARB weather forecaster, are related in friendship, military experience, and their love for forecasting the weather. (Photo by Don Peek)

In contrast, Graham provides aircrew briefings on the weather conditions they may encounter on their routes according to their submitted flight plans.

"Jean has a wealth of experience," said Mozer. "One of her advantages of being assigned to the same area for a long time is developing the ability to recognize the weather patterns of the area. The experience of forecasting in a given area for a while increases the accuracy rate." The weather office, located at Base Operations, operates from 5 a.m. till 11 p.m with two shifts manned by an observer and a forecaster. When working the morning shift, Graham begins her days by collecting data

from various data sources. A 24-hour forecast is released at 6 a.m., one hour before the airfield becomes operational. The local forecast goes to international weather services as well as the Air Force Weather Agency.

Mozer and Graham tease each other about being paid for guessing. But they are very serious about their jobs. "It's very important that we relate the information we give in a timely and accurate manner," said Mozer. "There is difference in the level of information a pilot needs compared to a TV viewer. But when it comes to weather, there's always a need to know."

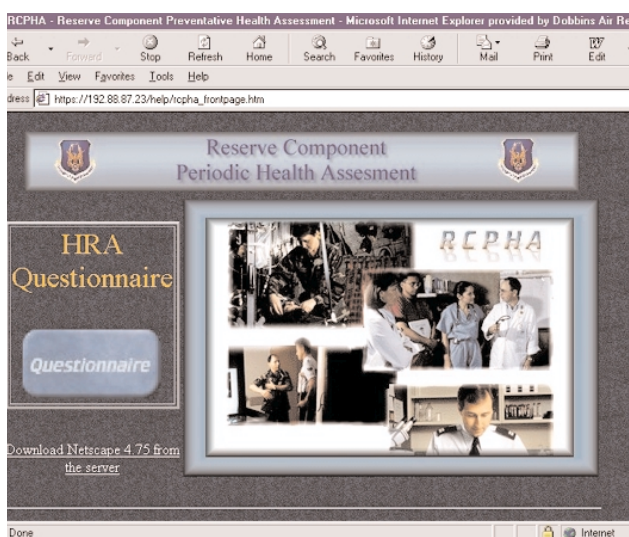
RCHPA is here

By Lt. Col. Ron Malcolm
*94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron,
Physical Exam Section*

The Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment has landed at Dobbins ARB. The active duty Air Force initiated the assessment in 1996. The RCPHA is a major enhancement to the medical exam process using a web-based interface. Preventive health guidelines used in the RCPHA are based on recommendations set forth by the National Institute of Health's Preventive Health Task Force. These guidelines help identify health risks early in hopes that effective lifestyle changes and medical intervention can improve health and wellness. By identifying potential health problems early, making measurable changes has shown to reduce risks among leading killers such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes. So what does this mean to you as an Air Force reservist with a packed schedule every UTA?

Medical exams of the past primarily determined your ability to perform your military tasks based on your Air Force Specialty Code and some indication of your overall well being. The RCPHA continues to evaluate your ability to fly, fight and win. It now includes periodic screening to identify health risk factors that lead to

major life-threatening diseases. These diseases may not affect you and your ability to work now, but later in life. The sooner these health risks are identified and corrected the more likely you will retire healthier and spend less of your retirement income on medical bills and more for



yourself and family. The RCPHA eliminates the Annual Medical Certificate (AF Form 895). In its place RCPHA incorporates a web-based health risk appraisal. This is a health questionnaire that uses your answers to evaluate relative health risks. The HRA data is combined with other medical tests specific to your age, gender and other

factors. This medical data is then reviewed and may trigger the need for you to be seen by an AF Reserve health care provider. The periodic "long non-flying" physical no longer applies. Flying and other occupational health physicals still apply and you must also complete the annual RCPHA. The timeline for completing your annual RCPHA is driven by your birth month:

- * As early as six months before your birth month complete the web-based PHA. This can be done from home or from your unit by accessing <https://192.88.87.23>.

- * If notified, report to the 94th ASTS clinic for specific medical tests.

- * Your questionnaire and medical tests are reviewed by the medical staff and a determination is made if you need to schedule an appointment with the Reserve health care provider.

- * If the RCPHA process is not completed by the last day of your birth month, a Profile Change (AF Form 422) is automatically generated stating you are not fit for worldwide duty.

The first year of implementing the RCPHA is labor intensive for the ASTS while they are learning the new system, training personnel and putting the new guidelines into practice. You can help by completing your annual RCPHA questionnaire early. The RCPHA is a much-needed improvement for reservists.

The goal of the 94th ASTS is to make your visit for medical tests, reviews and exams a more meaningful experience for your present and future health.